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THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: The present increase in land revenue is purely an emergency measure. That has no relation to what we are going to do with the agricultural income-tax.

Check-posts for checking movement of foodgrains

*193 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the number of check-posts established for the purpose of checking movement of foodgrains between mile 60 and 65 on the Southern Trunk Road from Madras to Villupuram; and

(b) the number of cases detected by these check-posts from the date of their establishment to 31st March 1965?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: (a) Two check-post. One of them has been abolished with effect from 21—4—1965.

(b) Twelve (12) cases.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Sir, what is the need for these two check-post? Have the Government taken care at any time to ask for an explanation from the concerned authorities why two check-posts were put up within a distance of two or three furlongs on the same road?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Of the two, one has been abolished. According to the arrangements made, this must be done by the two district authorities as such. Now they have taken away one.

DR. H. V. HANDE: Sir, are the Government aware that in the check-posts in one taluk and another, there is no proper protection given to the people who man the check-posts? The trunk of a tree is put across the road to stop the lorry, but sometimes the lorries pass over the trunk without stopping. The people who man these check-posts are put to a lot of hardship. Are the Government aware of this?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: The Government are fully aware of it. Even if we put some other barrier on the road, there are certain lorries which break through them. But still it is only just and proper that people should abide by the rules of the check-posts.

DR. H. V. HANDE: What is the protection given to the people if the lorries do not obey?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: Whenever any difficulty arises the Government give them the necessary protection.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR: Sir, has this assisted the movement of paddy from taluk to taluk in the State?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH: When procurement is in progress, certain District Collectors feel it necessary to prevent the movement even within the district. In such cases they have to introduce check-posts to prevent movement from taluk to taluk.

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Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Government issue instructions to see that at least in future no such check-posts are allowed at such close distance in view of the austerity that is being observed by the Government?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : In certain places, we will have to abide by the conditions prevailing in those places. In certain places, check-posts will be helping us. In certain other places . . .

Sri S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Not within a distance of two furlongs.

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : Even in such cases, it will be helpful if they are border areas in the districts. Our attempt is not to spend money but to see that food movement is controlled.

Sri R. VENKATACHALAM : What are the commodities the movement of which is prohibited from taluk to taluk?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : Food.

Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, have the Government no confidence in their own officers? Where is the necessity for a number of check-posts within a furlong, whatever be the districts concerned?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : It is not as a general rule the check-posts are introduced within a furlong or two furlongs in certain places. It is to prevent the stealthy movement by lorry owners and others who just try to smuggle away. We have to take effective measures against them. For this, preventive measures are inevitable.

Dr. H. V. HANDE : Do the Government think that there is proper co-ordination between these check-posts?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMAIAH : This is constantly being reviewed, and we examined whether the check-posts should be increased or reduced.

Prices of Milk

* 194 *Q.*—Sri M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the price of milk just before the Madhavaram Milk Project was started; and

(*b*) the current price of milk of (i) Madhavaram Project, (ii) Co-operatives and (iii) private sources?

The Hon. Sri V. RAMIAH : (*a*) Buffalo's milk—Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.75 per Madras measure (4 lb. or 1.8 litres).